

Philadelphia Oct. 3rd 1865

Sir

Agreeably to your request contained in your letter of the 2nd Inst., I transmit herewith a more detailed account of my expenditures in visiting the Branch Mints in Charlotte, N.C. and Dahlonega, Ga. and have also separated the items expressly expended at each of those branches.

I do not recollect receiving a single bill of charges at any of the Hotels, except at Willard's Hotel in the City of Washington, and not deeming it of any importance, I did not preserve it. In regard to my expenditures in Public Service generally, I follow the simple rule to expend as if the money were my own, and as I never preserved special bills while traveling for myself, I did not do so in the present instance. While I regret now that I did not procure such bills for the Department, I may be permitted to remark, that in many Hotels & places, where I lodged, it would have been very difficult to find a single piece of writing paper, unless I had supplied it, with the exception of that in the usual book of entry.

May I be allowed to revert once more to the charge which I made for services as Special Agent of the Department, with the request that the decision may be reviewed by the Department.

When I stated in my letter, accompanying the account of expenditures, that I was aware I had no legal right to ask for compensation, it was written in allusion to the letter of the Department to the Director of the Mint, asking him to select a suitable person, perhaps an Officer of the Mint, so that perhaps no unnecessary expenditure might be incurred. I did not regard my services performed as an Officer of the U.S. Mint, because the duties had no relation to the Mint. Might not then the moderate charge which I made be allowed for services not connected with my official position? I did not seek the Agency, but accepted it cheerfully, because the Director told me he knew of no one, who could as ably fill the position, and that by going, I would render a service to the government.

I do not desire to trumpet my praise in stating what I underwent in my journey, but to show that I avoided nothing to accomplish my purpose. In fulfilling my task I travelled over some 800 miles of Rail Road of the worst character, chiefly in box-cars, of the roughest construction, often exposed to hours of the mid-day sun, — about 180 miles of roads in common wagons, — I walked 180 miles by day and night, and camped without shelter for 14 nights. I need hardly add that my table fare was always irregular, frequently scant, and generally inferior from quality or preparation.

In consequence of the mode of travel, and ignorance of laundry matters by the people, a good wardrobe with which I set out was nearly ruined.

The heavy item of charge for medicines, &c is entirely due to restless travel, constant and unavoidable exposure to an almost tropical sun, and to the irregularity and inferior quality of table fare.

I do not complain of the hardships I underwent, because they occurred in the execution of a known duty, but simply to show how foreign that duty was to anything connected with my official position at the U. S. Mint.

There is one other point of importance to me. The salary at the Mint not being large, insufficient, I think you will admit with me, for the position an officer of the Mint should occupy, who has been responsible for holding and working some \$400,000- of gold, with safety and economy, — it has been my custom in the summer season to make geological examinations of lands, or engage in some investigations in Technical Chemistry, without interfering with my duties at the Mint, whereby I have rarely failed to gain, not less than \$500= I am of course deprived of this resource the present year, when, unfortunately, everything is much more expensive than usual.

Altho' what I ask may seem a tripling amount to the Department, it is nevertheless very important to me, and I shall be glad if it can be granted legally, but not otherwise.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Hon. Hugh McCulloch
Secretary of the Treasury
Washington City

Your obedt Servt

Jas C Booth

Philadelphia
Oct 3, 1865

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J. C Booth